IDW

58

COVER A

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

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SEGA®

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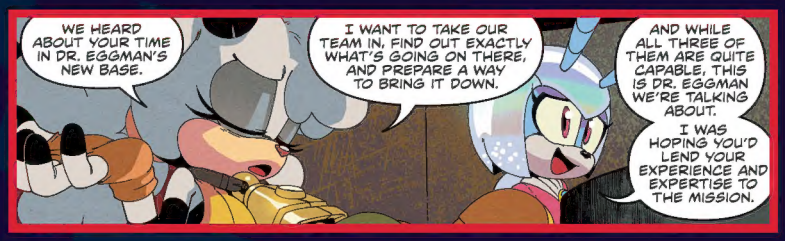
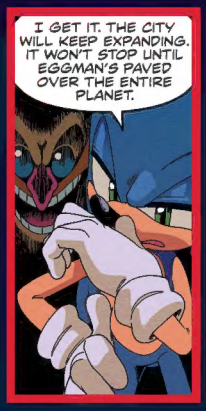
STORY SO FAR

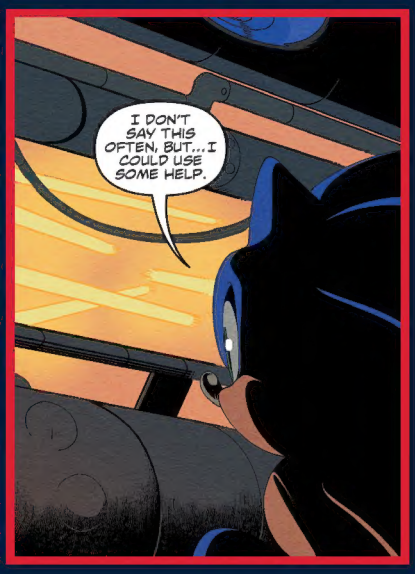
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN. IN THE PAST, THE RESTORATION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON REBUILDING AND HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS.
LANOLIN HAS MADE A CASE ON HOW WE CAN EXPAND.
WE'RE BUILDING A RAPID-RESPONSE TEAM TO BOTH PROTECT PEOPLE AND TAKE THE INITIATIVE AGAINST ANY THREATS WE CAN DETECT.


WE HEARD ABOUT YOUR TIME IN DR. EGGMAN'S NEW BASE.
I WANT TO TAKE OUR TEAM IN, FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON THERE, AND PREPARE A WAY TO BRING IT DOWN.
AND WHILE ALL THREE OF THEM ARE QUITE CAPABLE, THIS IS DR. EGGMAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D LEND YOUR EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE TO THE MISSION.

I VOTE DIAMOND CUTTERS!

IT'S STRIP-MINING EVERYTHING UNDERNEATH IT! IT'S ALL BEING HOLLOWED OUT!
ALL THE MINERALS, NUTRIENTS, PLANT LIFE-- GONE!


I GET IT. THE CITY WILL KEEP EXPANDING. IT WON'T STOP UNTIL EGGMAN'S PAVED OVER THE ENTIRE PLANET.


I DON'T SAY THIS OFTEN, BUT... I COULD USE SOME HELP.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.

TANGLE THE LEMUR
Excitable Hero.
Diamond Cutter.

WHISPER THE WOLF
Silent Sniper.
Diamond Cutter.

LANOLIN THE SHEEP
Woolen Warrior.
Diamond Cutter.

AMY ROSE
Hammer-Swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
Tech-Savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.

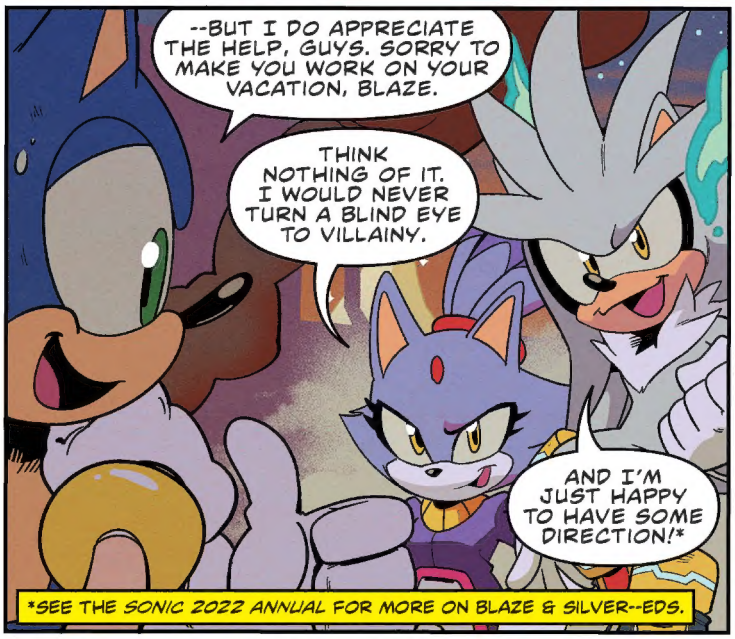
SILVER THE HEDGEHOG
Young Psychic Hero.
Friend from the future.

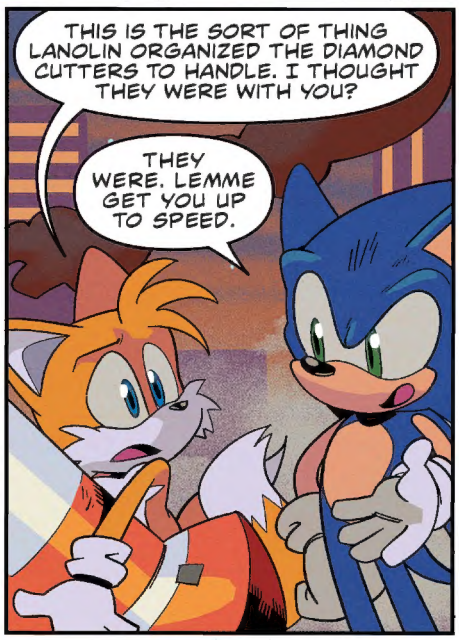
BLAZE THE CAT
Fire-Powered Princess.
Friend from another dimension.

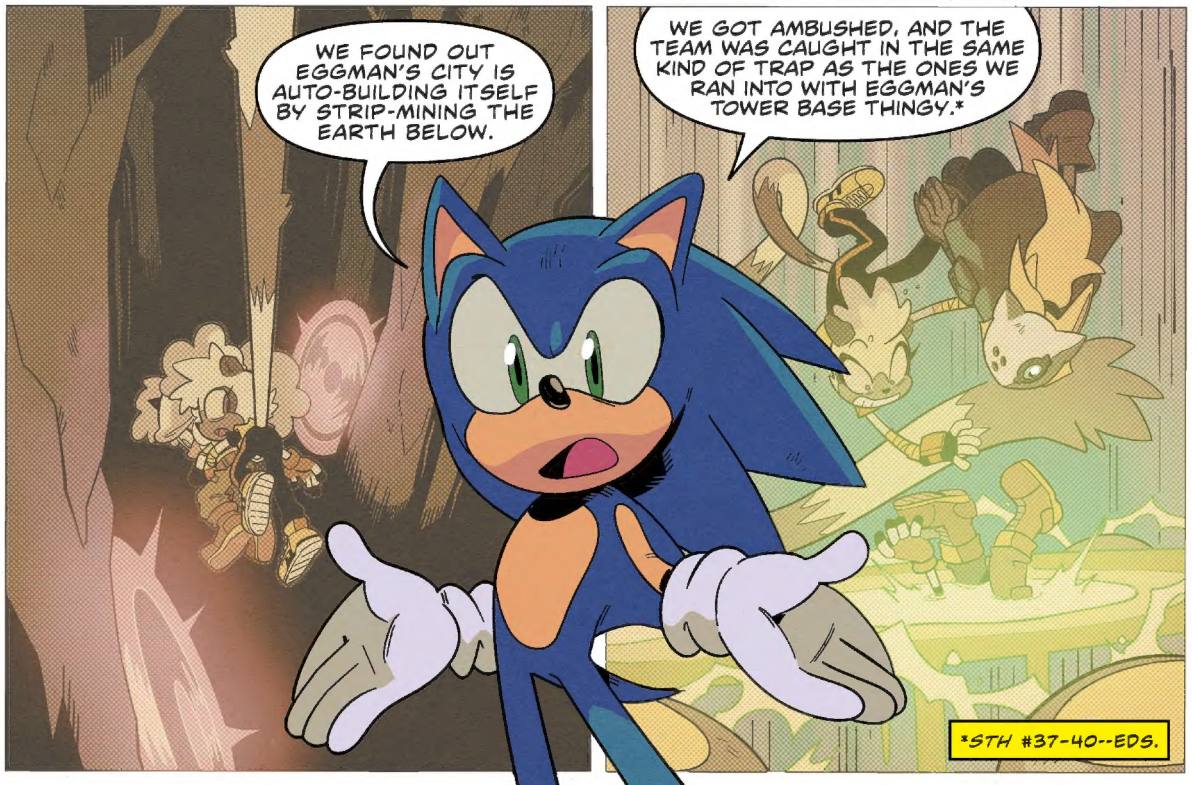
EGGPERIAL CITY.
I KNOW ATTACKING ME IS KINDA YOUR "THING..."
...BUT COULD YOU GIVE ME TWO MINUTES?! MY FRIENDS ARE IN TROUBLE!

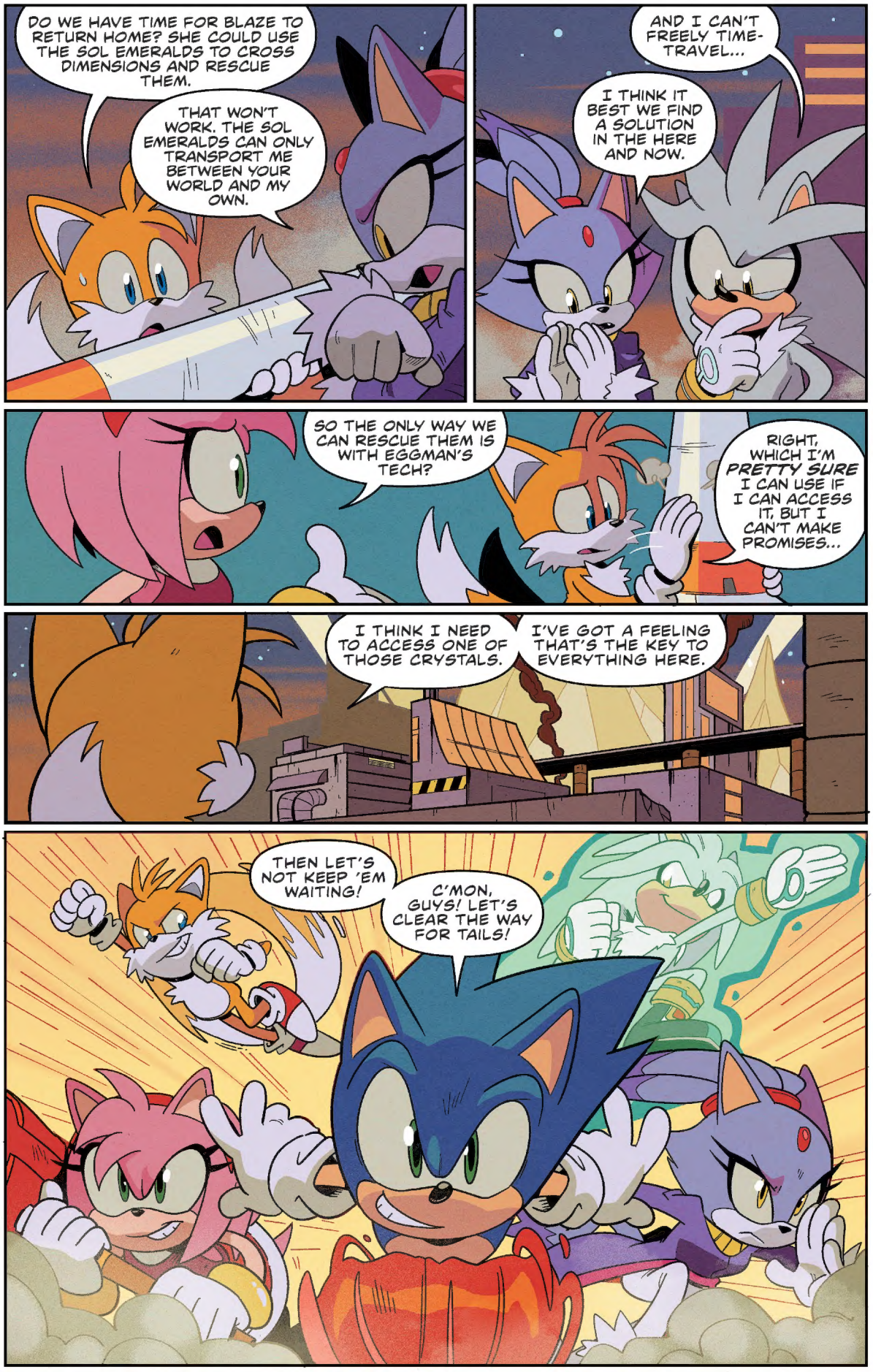
FWOOSH
PIKO
SMASH
OH, HEY, GUYS. COME HERE OFTEN?

JEWEL TOLD US YOU CALLED FOR BACKUP.*
ARE YOU HURT?
NAH! I'M FIIINE--
*LAST ISSUE--EDS.


--BUT I DO APPRECIATE THE HELP, GUYS. SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORK ON YOUR VACATION, BLAZE.
THINK NOTHING OF IT. I WOULD NEVER TURN A BLIND EYE TO VILLAINY.
AND I'M JUST HAPPY TO HAVE SOME DIRECTION!*
*SEE THE SONIC 2022 ANNUAL FOR MORE ON BLAZE & SILVER--EDS.


THIS IS THE SORT OF THING LANOLIN ORGANIZED THE DIAMOND CUTTERS TO HANDLE. I THOUGHT THEY WERE WITH YOU?
THEY WERE. LEMME GET YOU UP TO SPEED.


WE FOUND OUT EGGMAN'S CITY IS AUTO-BUILDING ITSELF BY STRIP-MINING THE EARTH BELOW.
WE GOT AMBUSHED, AND THE TEAM WAS CAUGHT IN THE SAME KIND OF TRAP AS THE ONES WE RAN INTO WITH EGGMAN'S TOWER BASE THINGY.*
*STH #37-40--EDS.


DO WE HAVE TIME FOR BLAZE TO RETURN HOME? SHE COULD USE THE SOL EMERALDS TO CROSS DIMENSIONS AND RESCUE THEM.
THAT WON'T WORK. THE SOL EMERALDS CAN ONLY TRANSPORT ME BETWEEN YOUR WORLD AND MY OWN.
AND I CAN'T FREELY TIME-TRAVEL...
I THINK IT BEST WE FIND A SOLUTION IN THE HERE AND NOW.
SO THE ONLY WAY WE CAN RESCUE THEM IS WITH EGGMAN'S TECH?
RIGHT, WHICH I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN USE IF I CAN ACCESS IT, BUT I CAN'T MAKE PROMISES...
I THINK I NEED TO ACCESS ONE OF THOSE CRYSTALS.
I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT'S THE KEY TO EVERYTHING HERE.
THEN LET'S NOT KEEP 'EM WAITING!
C'MON, GUYS! LET'S CLEAR THE WAY FOR TAILS!

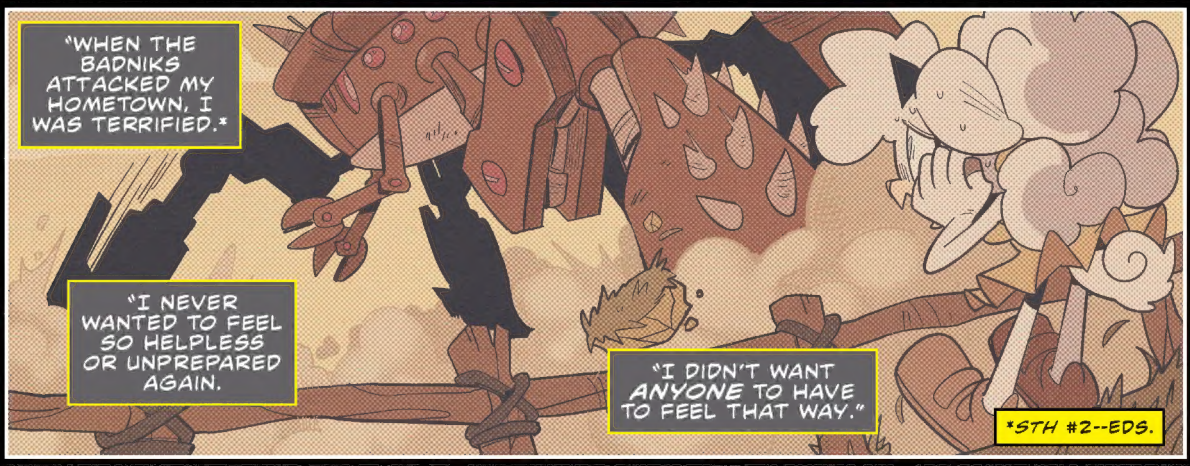
NO! COME BACK! WE'RE RIGHT HERE!

RRRGH! WE CAN'T FIGHT BADNIKS! WE CAN'T TALK TO ANYONE! WALKING AROUND FEELS LIKE I'M GONNA FLOAT AWAY LIKE A SOAP BUBBLE!
THIS SCI-FI WHATEVER STINKS!

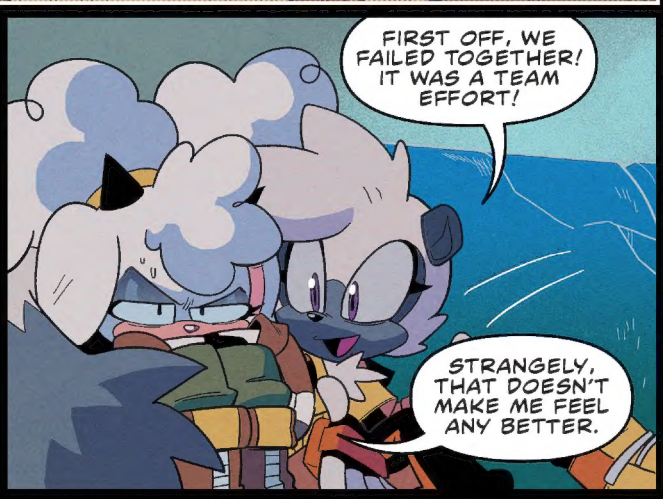
C'MON, BOSS LADY! WE NEED A PLAN!
I'M NOT THE BOSS.

SURE YOU ARE! YOU ORGANIZED THE TEAM! THIS WAS YOUR MISSION! YOU'RE TOTALLY THE TEAM LEADER!
I CAN'T BE, 'CUZ... HAHA, C'MON NOW, LET'S BE SERIOUS. AND WHISPER IS MORE OF THE "COMPLETE THE MISSION" TYPE.

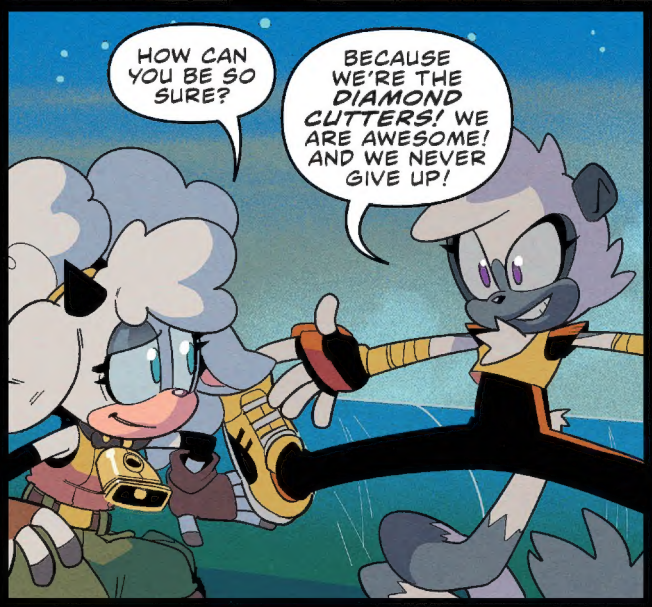
I DON'T THINK I'M CUT OUT FOR THIS.
THEN... WHY DID YOU EVEN FORM THE TEAM?
...DESPERATION?


"WHEN THE BADNIKS ATTACKED MY HOMETOWN, I WAS TERRIFIED.*
"I NEVER WANTED TO FEEL SO HELPLESS OR UNPREPARED AGAIN.
"I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO HAVE TO FEEL THAT WAY."
*STH #2--EDS.

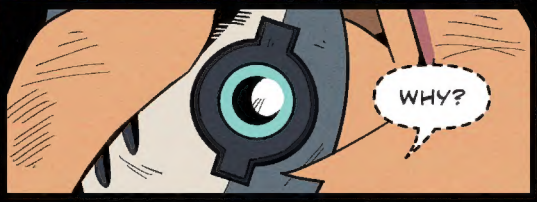
BUT NOW HERE WE ARE. I'M NOT PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THIS.
THIS MISSION IS AN UTTER FAILURE, AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.


FIRST OFF, WE FAILED TOGETHER! IT WAS A TEAM EFFORT!
STRANGELY, THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER.

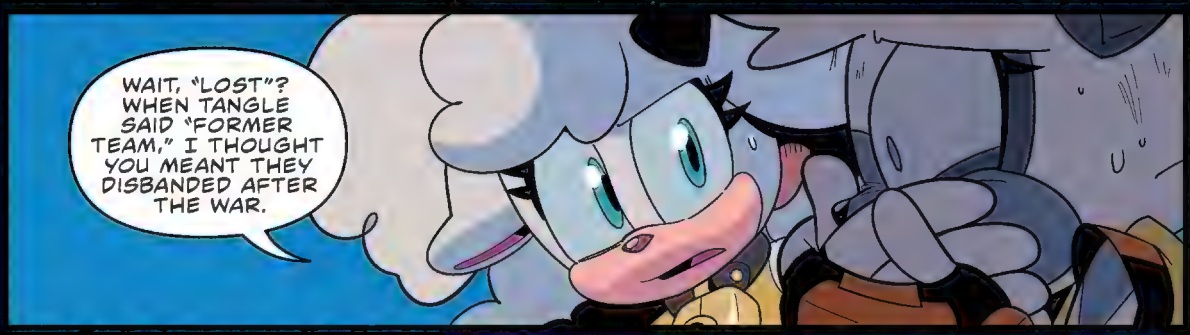
SECONDLY, TAKE IT FROM SOMEONE WHO'S SLING-SHOT HERSELF OFF A CLIFF ONCE OR THRICE: IT'S OKAY TO MAKE MISTAKES.
JEWEL'S CARRIED ME OUT OF SOME BAD SITUATIONS IN THE PAST. AND YOU'VE GOT A TEAM THAT CAN HELP YOU OUT OF THIS ONE.
WE'LL WALK AWAY FROM THIS A LITTLE SMARTER, A LITTLE MORE EXPERIENCED, AND WITH A GREAT STORY TO SHARE BACK AT RESTORATION HQ!


HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
BECAUSE WE'RE THE DIAMOND CUTTERS! WE ARE AWESOME! AND WE NEVER GIVE UP!

RIGHT, WHISPER?


WHY?

WHY WHAT?
WHY "DIAMOND CUTTERS." MY TEAM. MY FRIENDS. WHAT I LOST.


WAIT, "LOST"? WHEN TANGLE SAID "FORMER TEAM," I THOUGHT YOU MEANT THEY DISBANDED AFTER THE WAR.

NO. WE WERE BETRAYED. DESTROYED.*
*TANGLE & WHISPER MINISERIES--EDS.

I THOUGHT... I DIDN'T... I WANTED...
JUST SAY IT.

I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T THINK OF IT LIKE THAT!
YOUR OLD TEAMMATES WERE SUCH CLOSE FRIENDS! THEY WERE SO COOL AND COMPETENT!
I WANTED THAT FOR US! SO WE WOULDN'T DRIFT APART AGAIN!

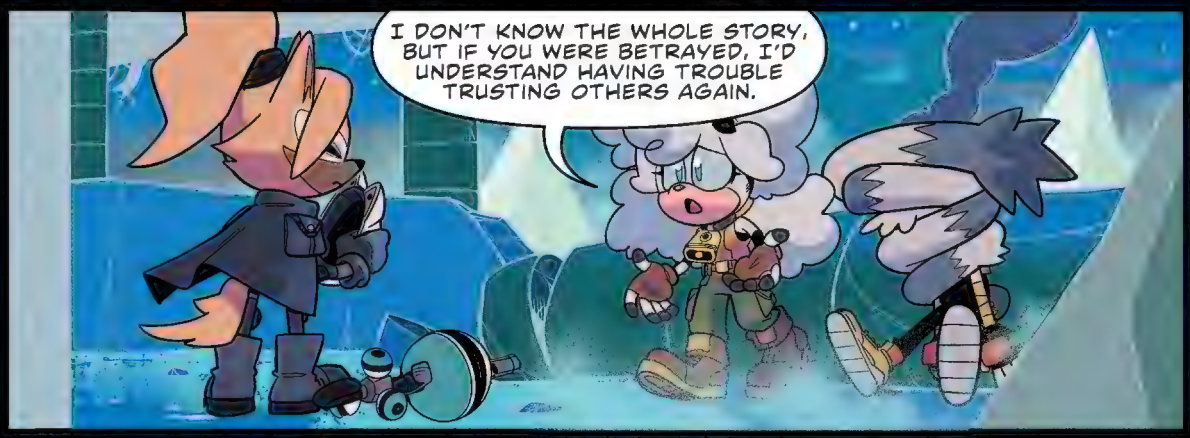
BUT YOU JUST GOT HERE...
YOUR PLACE IS WITH THE RESTORATION. MINE ISN'T.
I NEED THEM BACK.
THANK YOU.
GET Well OON!

I WAS CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT! I'M SO SORRY!
WE CAN ALWAYS CHANGE THE TEAM NAME.

SNIFF

MY OLD TEAM...
...WE WERE THERE FOR ONE ANOTHER. OUR WISPS...THEY'RE HERE FOR ME NOW...

AND EVEN THOUGH I'VE TRIED TO WALK AWAY, EVERYONE HAS BEEN THERE TO SUPPORT ME.
SONIC. TAILS. BELLE. YOU.
THE ONLY PERSON NOT TRYING TO HELP EVERYONE IS...ME.

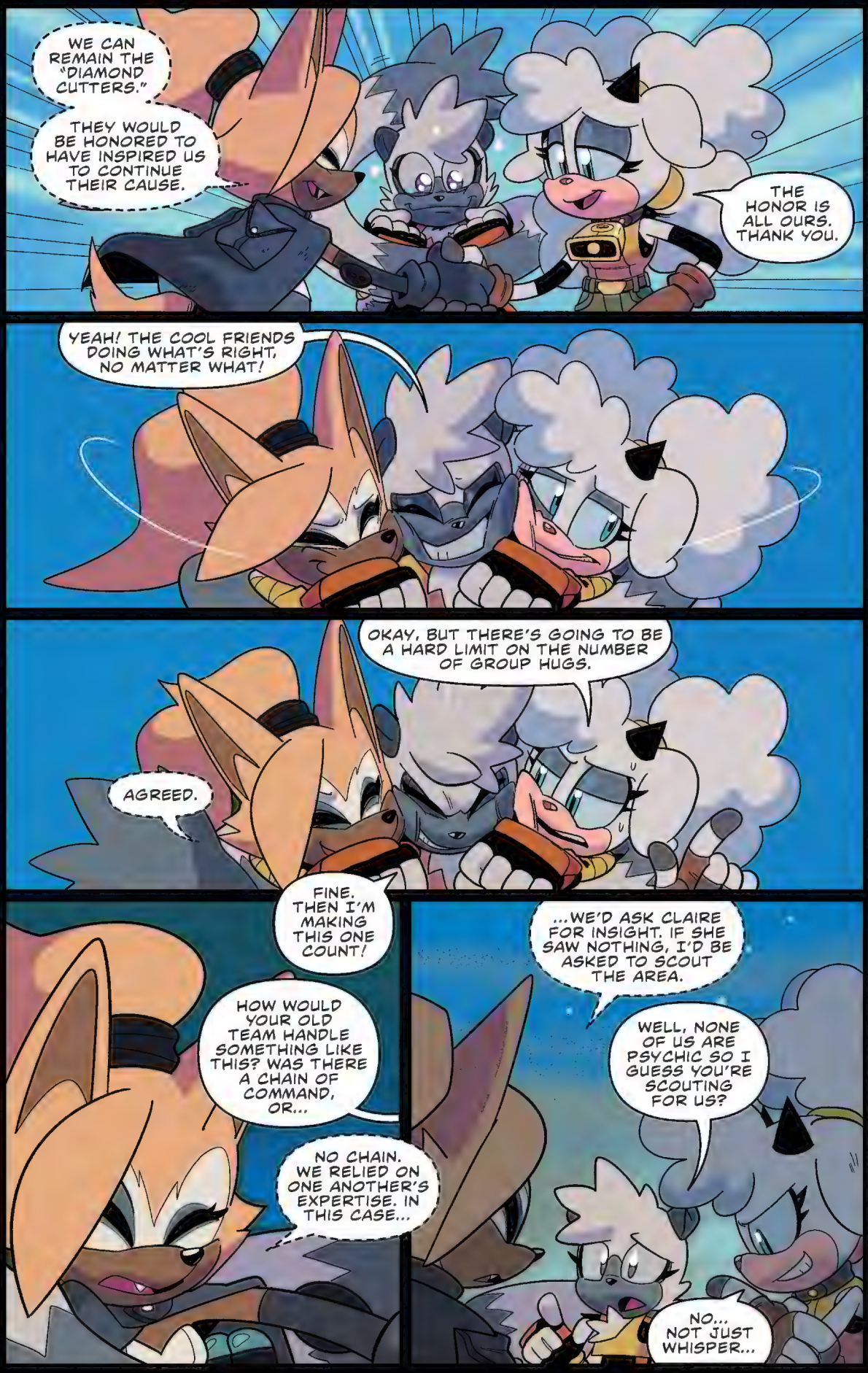

I DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY, BUT IF YOU WERE BETRAYED, I'D UNDERSTAND HAVING TROUBLE TRUSTING OTHERS AGAIN.

NO. ONE PERSON HURT ME. ONE PERSON TOOK MY FRIENDS FROM ME. NOT YOU. NOT THE RESTORATION. JUST HIM.
I CAN'T LET HIM TAKE THIS FROM ME, TOO.
I CAN'T... I WON'T LET HIS FEAR POISON ME ANYMORE.

I...AM SORRY. I HAVE BEEN A BAD FRIEND AND A BAD TEAMMATE.
IT...WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO FULLY MOVE ON. MAY I ASK THAT YOU BE PATIENT WITH ME?

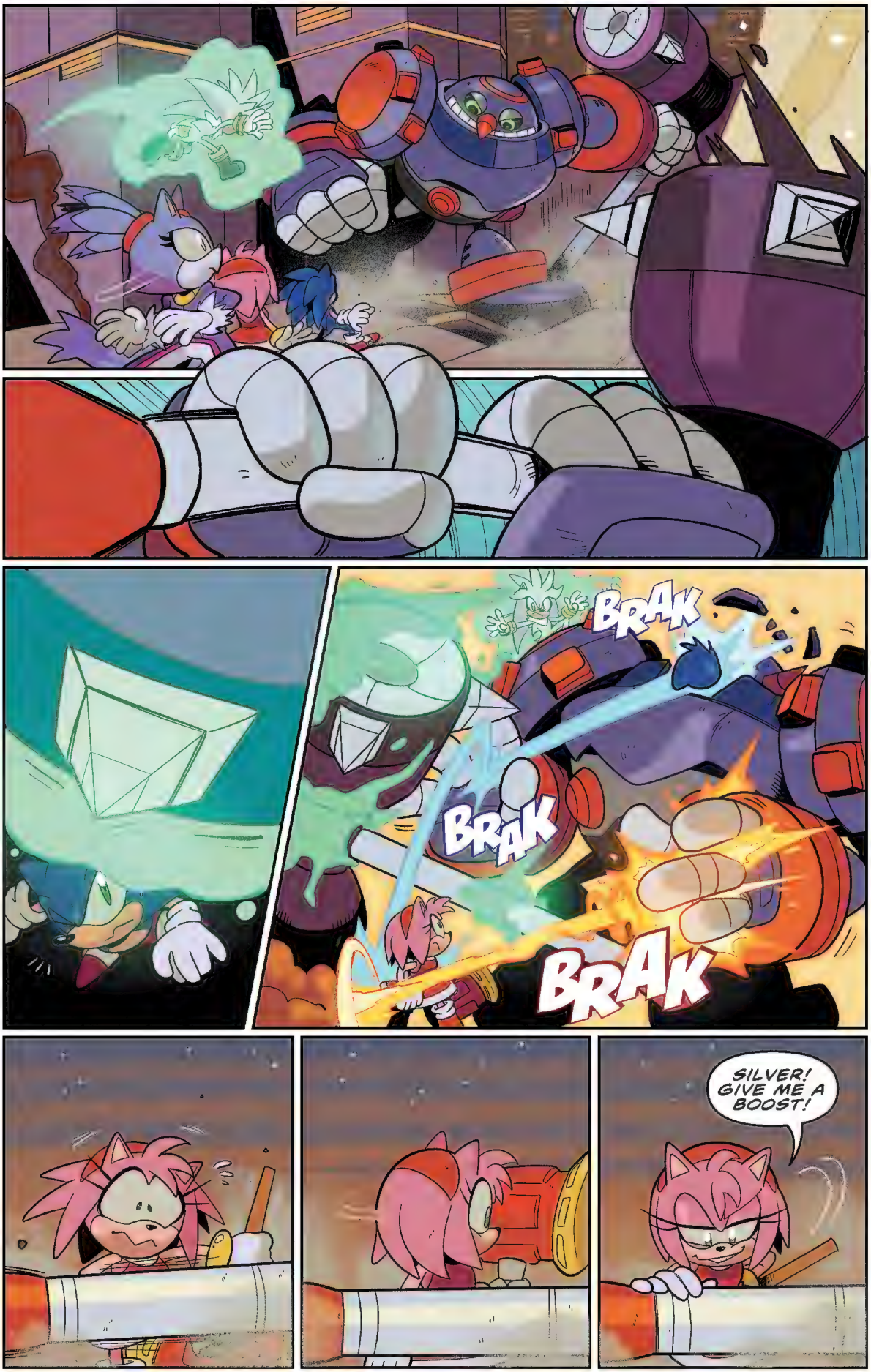
I CAN BE IF YOU'LL BE PATIENT WITH ME BEING BOSSY AND INEXPERIENCED.
NH HFF YHH BH PHFSHN WHHF MH BHHN MH!

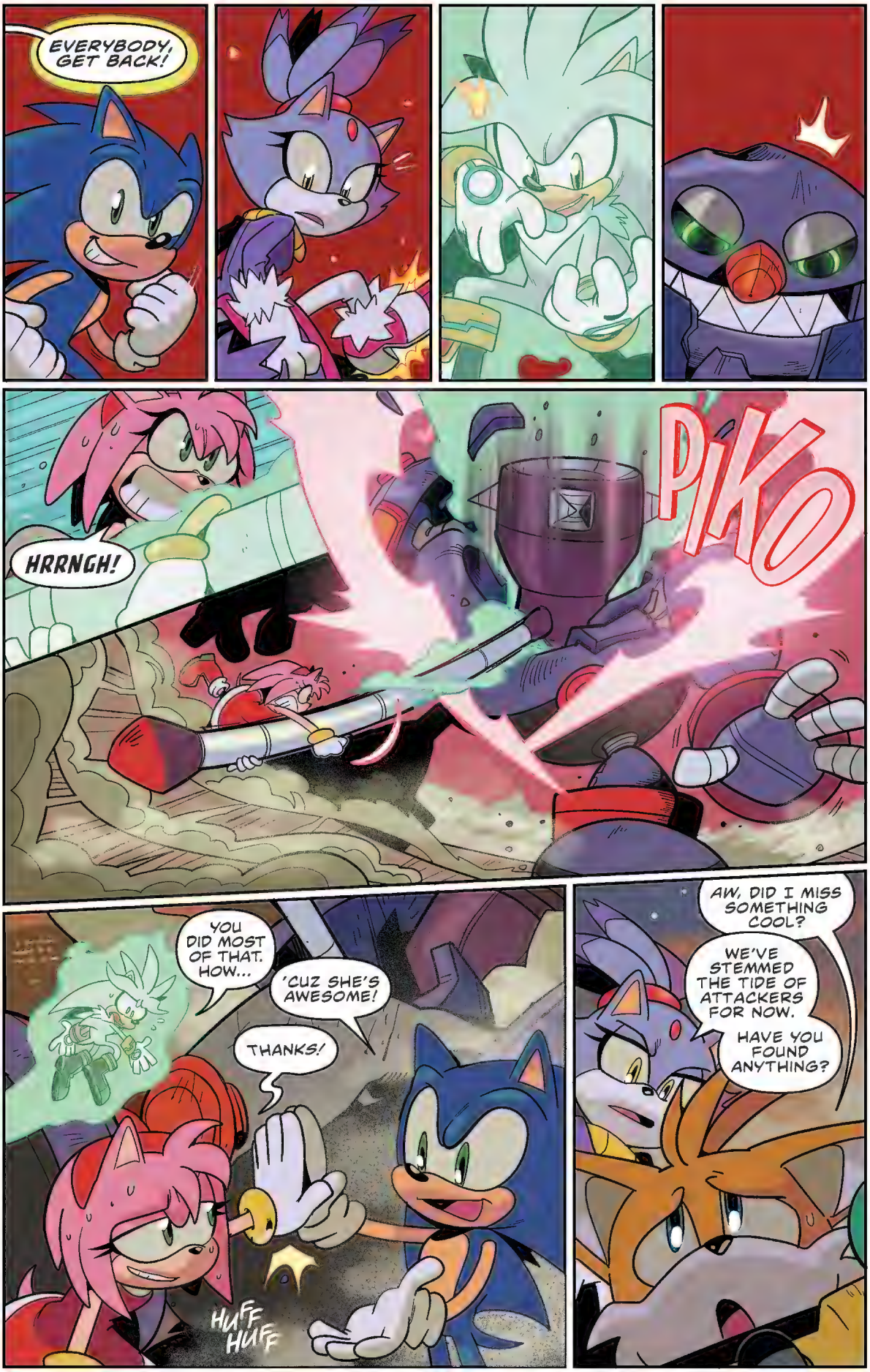
THANKS. I SAID--
I KNOW. I CAN. I WILL.


WE CAN REMAIN THE "DIAMOND CUTTERS."
THEY WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE INSPIRED US TO CONTINUE THEIR CAUSE.
THE HONOR IS ALL OURS. THANK YOU.
YEAH! THE COOL FRIENDS DOING WHAT'S RIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT!
OKAY, BUT THERE'S GOING TO BE A HARD LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF GROUP HUGS.
AGREED.
FINE. THEN I'M MAKING THIS ONE COUNT!
HOW WOULD YOUR OLD TEAM HANDLE SOMETHING LIKE THIS? WAS THERE A CHAIN OF COMMAND, OR...
NO CHAIN. WE RELIED ON ONE ANOTHER'S EXPERTISE. IN THIS CASE...
...WE'D ASK CLAIRE FOR INSIGHT. IF SHE SAW NOTHING, I'D BE ASKED TO SCOUT THE AREA.
WELL, NONE OF US ARE PSYCHIC SO I GUESS YOU'RE SCOUTING FOR US?
NO... NOT JUST WHISPER...

WE CAN BARELY INTERACT WITH THE TANGIBLE WORLD. THAT MEANS NO BADNIK CAN ATTACK US AND WE CAN BYPASS SECURITY.
WE CAN *ALL* SCOUT THE CITY, EXTRA QUICK. AND ONCE SONIC AND THE OTHERS RETURN US TO NORMAL, WE'LL HAVE ALL THE INTEL READY FOR THEM!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A PLAN THERE, BOSS.
IT'S A DIRECTION, AT LEAST.
LET'S HEAD TO THE CENTRAL CONTROL TOWER. IT WILL HAVE THE MOST CRUCIAL RESOURCES.
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO,
DIAMOND CUTTERS!

ELSEWHERE.
ZORCH
BRAK
?
PIKO
WE'LL KEEP YOU COVERED!
I'LL TRY TO BE QUICK!


BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
SILVER! GIVE ME A BOOST!


EVERYBODY, GET BACK!
HRRNGH!
PIKO
YOU DID MOST OF THAT. HOW...
'CUZ SHE'S AWESOME!
THANKS!
HUFF HUFF
AW, DID I MISS SOMETHING COOL?
WE'VE STEMMED THE TIDE OF ATTACKERS FOR NOW.
HAVE YOU FOUND ANYTHING?

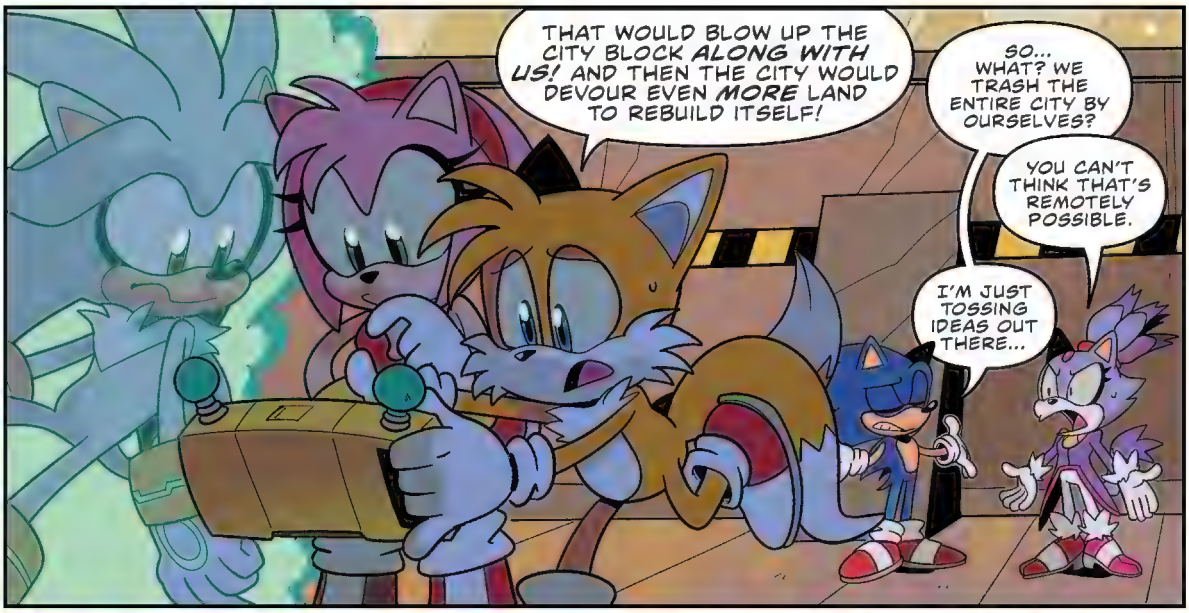
YES! THE GIANT CRYSTALS STICKING OUT ALL OVER THE CITY? THEY'RE ACTUALLY GIANT FAKE CHAOS EMERALDS!
THE DOCTOR CAN REPLICATE THEM THAT EASILY?

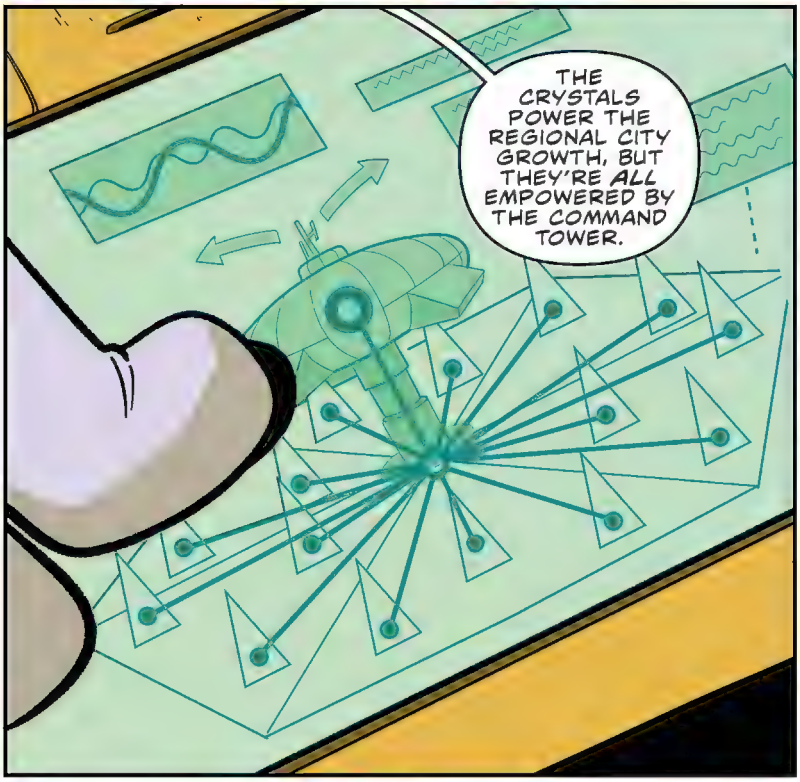
YES, BUT THEY'RE CHEAP REPLICAS.
THEY HAVE THE SAME WAVELENGTH AND PROPERTIES, BUT THEY'RE WOEFULLY UNDERPOWERED IN COMPARISON.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY'RE STILL MORE POTENT THAN THE CHAOS DRIVES AND POWER CORES HE'S USED IN HIS MACHINES IN THE PAST.

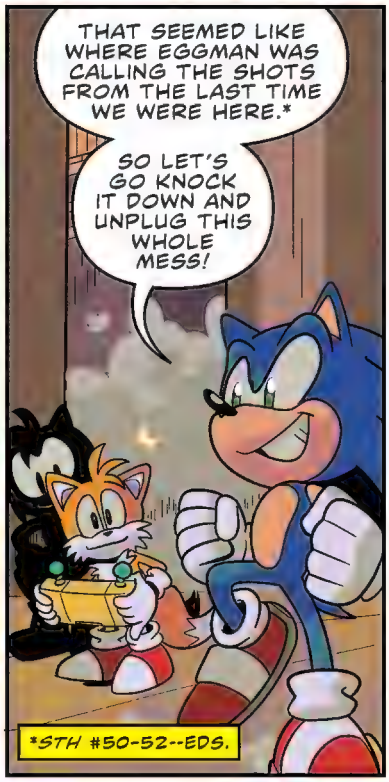
SO DID HE GROW THEM THIS BIG JUST TO BE GAUDY, OR...
IT'S TO INCREASE THEIR POWER OUTPUT. EVENTUALLY, IT JUSTIFIES THE COST OF CREATING THEM BUT AT A TREMENDOUS COST TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

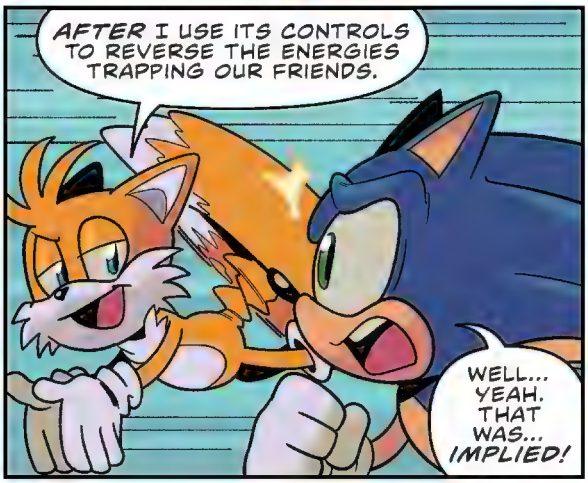
GOT IT. BUST THE CRYSTALS, BUST THE CITY. LET'S GO GET THAT HAMMER AGAIN.
OOH! CAN I DO IT MYSELF THIS TIME?
SURE. I'M STILL CATCHING MY BREATH.

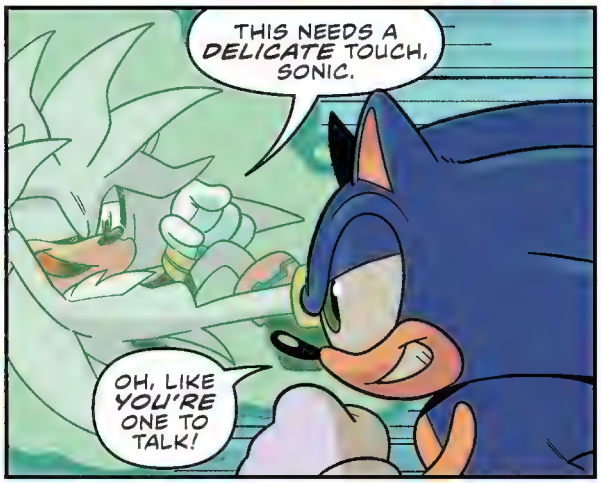
NO, NO, NO! THAT'S A BAD IDEA!
HONESTLY...SHATTERING SOMETHING AS POWERFUL AS AN EMERALD? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

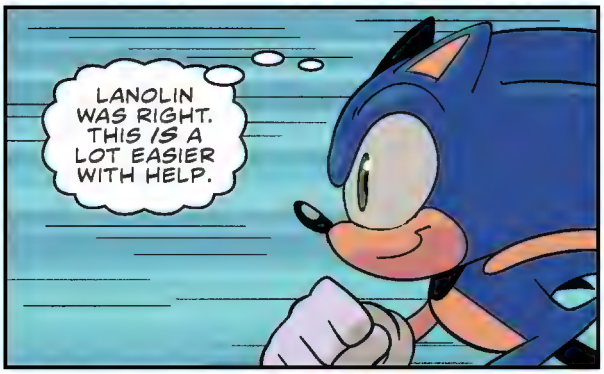

THAT WOULD BLOW UP THE CITY BLOCK ALONG WITH US! AND THEN THE CITY WOULD DEVOUR EVEN MORE LAND TO REBUILD ITSELF!
SO... WHAT? WE TRASH THE ENTIRE CITY BY OURSELVES?
YOU CAN'T THINK THAT'S REMOTELY POSSIBLE.
I'M JUST TOSSING IDEAS OUT THERE...

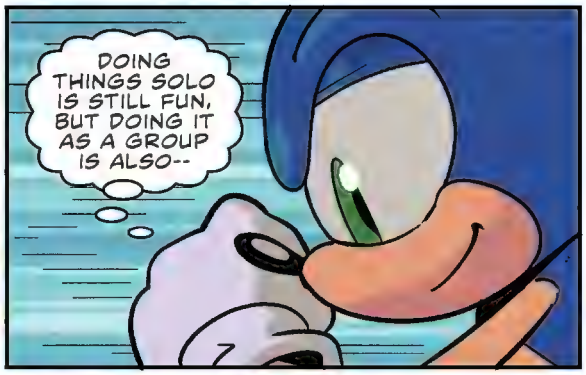

THE CRYSTALS POWER THE REGIONAL CITY GROWTH, BUT THEY'RE ALL EMPOWERED BY THE COMMAND TOWER.


THAT SEEMED LIKE WHERE EGGMAN WAS CALLING THE SHOTS FROM THE LAST TIME WE WERE HERE.*
SO LET'S GO KNOCK IT DOWN AND UNPLUG THIS WHOLE MESS!
*STH #50-52--EDS.


AFTER I USE ITS CONTROLS TO REVERSE THE ENERGIES TRAPPING OUR FRIENDS.
WELL... YEAH. THAT WAS... IMPLIED!

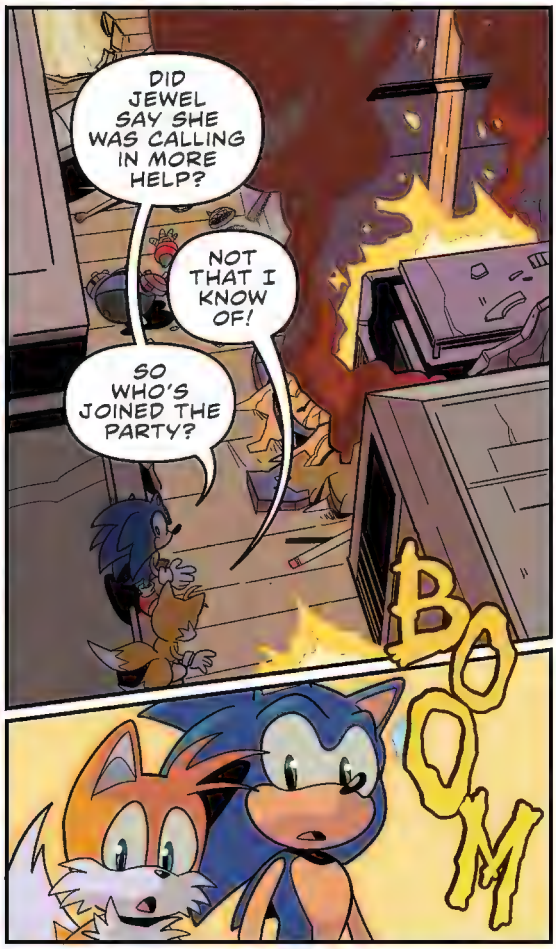

THIS NEEDS A DELICATE TOUCH, SONIC.
OH, LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!


LANOLIN WAS RIGHT. THIS IS A LOT EASIER WITH HELP.


DOING THINGS SOLO IS STILL FUN, BUT DOING IT AS A GROUP IS ALSO--

WHA-
BOOM

WHAT WAS THAT?!
YOU GUYS KEEP HEADING FOR THE TOWER!
WE'LL CHECK IT OUT!


DID JEWEL SAY SHE WAS CALLING IN MORE HELP?
NOT THAT I KNOW OF!
SO WHO'S JOINED THE PARTY?
BOOM

NEXT TIME:
TEAM DARK JOINS THE FRAY!

NEXT MONTH
THR 22'
DEE GEE MIN

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

**Waves* Hello, Sonic Squad! More help is on the way! We're running out of room in our roll call... Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Thomas Rothlisberger, Matt Herms, and Shawn Lee for issue #58! Now, let's take a look at your art and letters!*

Hey! My name is Bradley, and right now I'm 17, studying art and design at college. I've been a fan of *Sonic* for as long as I can remember, and Yuji Uekawa's awesome art is probably what got me into drawing! I've attached a drawing that I'm super proud of. I'm sure the shonen influence won't be lost! These IDW comics are absolutely amazing, telling new stories with new characters whilst referencing and calling back to the games is always super fun. I absolutely love Tangle, too. She's in my top three for sure! Major thanks to the artists over there at IDW for bringing these characters to life better than ever and inspiring me even more so to do the same! It would be pretty rad if I could be in that same spot sometime in the future.

P.S. My top three are Sonic, Shadow, and Tangle in no specific order, but Metal gets an honorable mention for being a cool, introspective, clanky fella.

Hey, Bradley! It's so awesome that you're persuing art at school. Your art is stellar. I really love the shonen influence; the Super Sonic kicks butt. Thank you for the kind words about the comic. We love to hear that people are enjoying them. Sonic, Shadow, and Tangle are absolutely some of the best characters, and lucky for you, they're all in the next issue together!

Hey, IDW Sonic Team,

My 8-year-old daughter Lilly is obsessed with Sonic. She especially loves your *Sonic* comics and would love to provide a picture of her artwork for a future issue. Lilly had a Sonic-themed birthday and has drawn several of her own Sonic comics. She also went as Amy Rose for Halloween. Thanks again. Below is a message from Lilly:

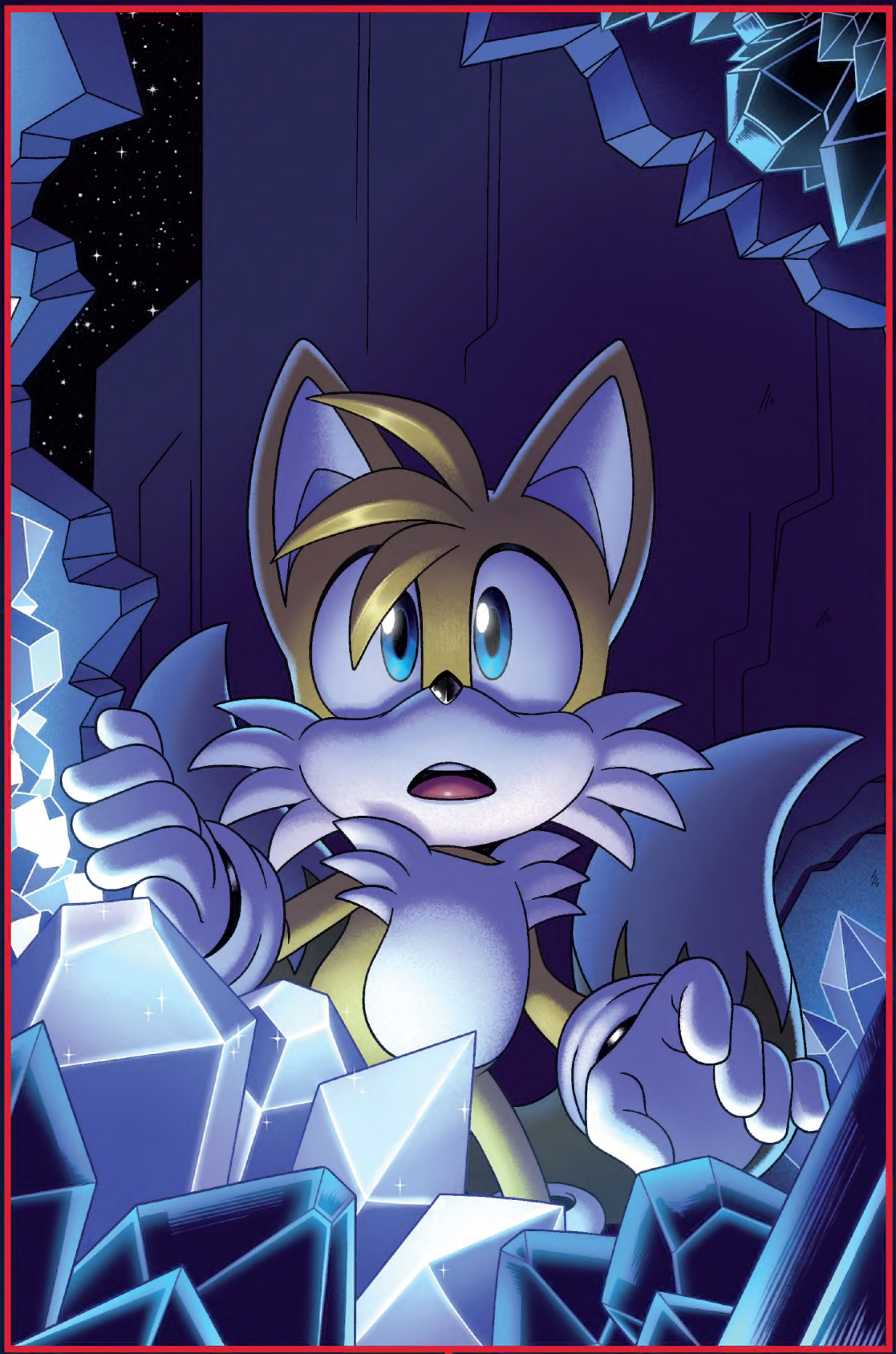
My favorite characters from *Sonic the Hedgehog* are Sonic, Knuckles, Surge, Tails, Shadow, Silver, Metal Sonic, Tangle, and Whisper. So long, Sonic Squad. And a happy new year.

Thanks,
Hunter and Lilly

Hey, Hunter and Lilly! Thank you so much for the letter, art, and picture. Your costume is so, so cute! I bet everyone at school loved it! Also, wow your list of favorite characters is long! I'm impressed with your dedication. I think your next comic should be a crossover of all your favorite characters. Can you imagine Tangle bugging Shadow? It would be so funny. Keep being way past awesome!

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them "OKAY TO PRINT"! And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, another new team joins the fight!

ART TRACY YARDLEY COLORS MIN HO KIM



ART ABIGAIL OZ

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE